

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1921.

IRELAND'S AFFAIRS

De Valera, the Spaniard who calls himself "President of the Irish Republic," has just issued a statement in which he categorically explains the position of the party of which he is the leader. He makes it perfectly clear that there can never be any agreement come to, which does not concede at the outset the right of the Irish people to become an absolutely independent nation, free in every respect from British control. He says that granted an independent Ireland, his party would be prepared to give pledges of absolute neutrality in case of trouble arising between Britain and any other nation. With regard to Ulster, Mr. De Valera is not prepared to extend the same rights as to self-determination that he claims for the remainder of Ireland. He declares that Ulster must submit to the will of the majority of the Irish people, whether she likes it or not, and no arrangement which provides for the movement of that province outside of the rest of the country will be acceptable to him and his party. He is prepared to give Ulster practically a free hand in purely local and domestic affairs, but that is his limit. Ulster however has no desire to be a partner in any Irish republic. The majority of her people feel that Great Britain would not be safe with an independent Ireland. The Sinn Féin argument as to this is that 700,000 Catholics in Ulster and a certain proportion of Protestants are in favor of an Irish Republic; and that even if the majority in Ulster is against a republic, this majority is really a minority of the Irish people, when all Ireland is included. The Sinn Féin regards as absurd the contention that because the entire United Kingdom outside of Southern Ireland, wants one government for the whole British Isles, therefore there cannot be any separation of any part, as absurd. But when he comes to support his own contention, he uses similar sort of logic.

"Complete autonomy for Ireland within a United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland is the British idea. 'No' is the Sinn Féin reply in effect. 'Ireland does not wish to be a partner in the United Kingdom; there must be independence.' Ulster objects, and the Englishman asks why he should desert Ulster. 'Because,' the Sinn Féin reply in effect is, 'a majority of us in Ireland demand it, and Ireland would not be safe with a separate Ulster.' 'But,' replies the Englishman, 'a large minority in Ireland do want to stay with me; one million two hundred thousand Protestants in Ireland, to say nothing of a certain proportion of Catholics, prefer British connection to an Irish Republic.' 'That does not matter,' replies Sinn Féin, 'we think Ireland should be united; we are a majority in Ireland, and the majority in Ireland should prevail.' 'But,' replies the Englishman, 'it is a majority confined to the south of Ireland. In the north, in Ulster, there is a majority who desire British connection.' 'No matter,' says Sinn Féin; 'the will of the majority outside Ulster should prevail if we want it to, and we do because we think it essential to the completeness and safety of an Irish republic.' Then the Ulsterman thinks such logic and language are nonsense applied to Ulster, just as the Sinn Féin thinks the same logic and language are nonsense applied to an all-Ireland republic.

The prospects therefore of any agreement being come to between the Government and De Valera, seem to be exceedingly remote.

MILITIA EXPENDITURES

The Hon. Hugh Guthrie declares that Canada's per capita expenditure for militia, naval and air forces is only \$1.89, and this statement is declared by the Mail and Empire to be a complete answer to charges of extravagance. The Montreal Gazette too was at some pains a day or two ago to defend the expenditures that have been made on militia account and it declares that in this respect Canada is in a better position than any other country in the world.

All this may be so, but nothing can disguise or do away with the fact that the administration of military affairs during the past six years has been marked by the grossest extravagance. There has been more graft and dishonest profiteering in this connection than ever was the case in the palmy days of the National Transcontinental Railway construction, when dentists sold typewriters, lawyers sold railway ties, and watchmakers and others sold supplies to the railways of a nature as far removed from their ordinary business operations as traction engines are from toothpicks. Advantage was

taken of the nation's extremity; it was realized that the various kinds of supplies had to be got, and got quickly, and there was a laxity in the purchasing of these supplies that in any ordinary case would be regarded as simply criminal. Middlemen abound, three or four deep in many cases; men who had friends at court were given contracts for the supply of articles utterly foreign to their ordinary business, but out of which they could get a substantial commission; properties were purchased at many times their market value, with a substantial rake-off for those who negotiated the sales; offices were fitted up regardless of expense, positions were created for needy supporters and their friends—and the country paid, on the score of urgent necessity. One hears the piping times of peace talked about, they look like two cents when compared with the piping times of war. The present expenditure for militia, etc. purposes may be only \$1.89 per capita, but had it not been for the reckless extravagance in the past it would have been infinitely less.

THE U. S. AT SUPREME COUNCIL

Some United States newspapers have taken the view that President Harding's decision to have that country take an official part in the deliberations of the Supreme Council would be followed by statements of the partisan Democratic press that "another" Wilson policy has been adopted by the Republican administration. But this is by no means the case.

It will be recalled that Mr. Wilson, when he was at length convinced that the United States would not accept the League of Nations and his programme of internationalism, withdrew the unofficial representatives of the United States Government from the Council and severed all connections with it. This was done, apparently, in a spirit of peevishness and in the belief that the interests of the country might be so jeopardized as to bring pressure to bear on the Senate to swallow the Wilson programme whole. The pressure followed, but the Senate withstood it.

The resumption of unofficial relations with the Council imports no obligations other than an earnest desire to be helpful in solving the vast problems with which the Allies are confronted. Mr. Harding could have given no better assurance of his unyielding determination to preserve the free action of the United States than by his selection of the man who will "take part as the representative of the President of the United States in the deliberations of the Supreme Council," namely, George Harvey, one of the most reputable irreconcilables in opposition to the League of Nations. For does the selection of Colonel Harvey as the representative of the President bear any analogy to the naming of Colonel House as "personal representative" of Mr. Wilson during the greater portion of the latter's incumbency, for Colonel Harvey's status as ambassador to Great Britain bears the confirmation of the United States Senate, while Colonel House had no authority whatever to speak for the United States.

Affairs in Greece are so steadily proceeding from bad to worse that it seems but a question of time when the Greeks may be obliged to call for the withdrawal of Constantine. The Greek army is now on the defensive and there is little likelihood of any improvement in the military situation. And the military are no worse than the economic conditions. The national treasury is empty and Greek merchants are unable to pay for foreign goods. The finances of Greece are controlled by France and England and these nations show no indication of giving any assistance to Greece, so long as Constantine remains on the throne. Doubtless Greece now wishes that it had remained constant to Venizelos who had the aid of the Allies. The war with Turkey was unpopular, at least the cost was, and Venizelos was ejected. The war remains but it is no longer a successful war and it has recently been necessary to call another class to the colors. Greek pride stands in the way of a right about face but the prosperity of the country has waned and pride may give way to necessity.

Sir John Martin Harvey apparently is a much cleverer man even than most people thought. He appeared on the boards in this city yesterday, yet according to the Moncton Times he passed through that city early yesterday morning on his way to Halifax. Quite a number of men we know would be glad to learn from him the secret of how he manages to be in two places at once. It would frequently have some awkward explanations as to friend who.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Something Wrong. America, alias the United States, is creditor to the world to the extent of \$18,000,000,000, with accrued interest piling up to \$10,000,000 daily. This alone would give every man, woman and child within its boundaries about \$180 apiece. And yet many of them, notably the families of those Alabama coal strikers who do not know where their next meal is coming from, are starving. As Marcellus once remarked, "Something is rotten in the state of Denmark."—Hamilton Spectator.

Are Advertisements Read?

If any business man has the idea that the space, advertising his business, is not being read or noticed, let him slip out a piece of copy that contains a readily detectable error. He will hear enough about that advertisement to convince him that everything in a paper, both news and advertisements, is closely scanned by critical readers.—Canadian Railroader.

Stretching the Span of Life.

The publication of a monumental work by Viscount Bryce at the ripe age of 83 should persuade many of us who want to feel what it is like to be an octogenarian that old age can be attained without the aid of thyroid glands borrowed from the monkey. One of the secrets of old age would seem to be a lifetime of intellectual activity, and a lion's share of public service. It is quite astonishing the number of public men living at the present day who have passed their eightieth birthday. Lord Channing is in his eighty-first year; Viscount Morley is 84; Mr. Frederic Harrison is close on 90; Sir Henry Poland is still a vigorous letter writer, 91, while the Earl of Halsbury is 97, and possibly there are others.—London Chronicle.

Rough on the Premier.

"Premier Drury and Mr. Haney make a splendid combination," says the Toronto Star. Surely the Premier does not deserve this rebuke.—Kingston Whig.

A BIT OF VERSE

HYLAS.

Cool were the grey-moulded beaches,
 Quiet with nogg were the fern-beds.
 Where by the bubbling spring water
 Tattered young Hylas.

Whistling a song of the rowers,
 Dipping his jar till he gurgled,
 Suddenly there the bright naiads
 (Woe for thee, Hylas!)

Looked and behold his fair beauty.
 Better their well-laid, and straight-
 way
 Exquisite longing possessed them
 Only for Hylas.

When he returned not at sundown,
 "Over long," said his companions,
 As slow dismay came upon them,
 "Tarrying young Hylas."

Never again did his comrades
 Find the lost rover, nor maidens
 See from their doorways at twilight
 Home-coming Hylas.

Thenceforth another must labor
 To the tired thud of his rowlock,
 And only legends keep tally
 Of the lost Hylas.

Yet even now, when the springtime
 Verdure the valley, and rain-winds
 Voyage for lands undiscovered,
 As once did Hylas.

With a great start on the hill-crest
 In purple evening, a flute-note
 Pierces the dusk, and a voice calls,
 "Hylas, Hylas!" —Bliss Carman.

THE LAUGH LINE

Did He Get His Raise?

A young Gentile, who had been working for a Hebrew clothier for some time, and whose wages were rather scant, thought he was deserving of a raise in salary, and accordingly he braved the subject to his employer, who spoke thus:—

You want a raise, hey? Vor for? In the year dere ish 365 days Vor you want a raise every day, consequently you work only one-third of the time . . . 121 "

But dat ish some out of dat yet Sundays . . . 52 "

Vich leafs . . . 69 "

Den you haf von half of Saturdays, vich ish . . . 26 "

Die leafs . . . 43 "

Den you haf von hour for lunch every day, vich ish . . . 15 "

Und dot leafs . . . 28 "

Each year I gife you two weeks' vacation vich ish . . . 14 "

Der ish in der year holidays . . . 12 "

Vich leafs . . . 2 "

Und any damn fool knows der ish two Jewish holidays . . . 2 "

Vich leafs . . . 0 "

Now vy in goodness name, do you vast a raise?

No Danger.

"If you please, madame, I've let the baby's shawl drop out of the window."

"How careless of you! Baby will catch his death of cold."

"Oh, no, madame—he's still in the shawl."

He Got It.

"If Crabbe ever comes around your place to borrow anything don't you let him have it."

"You've spoken too late. He was around yesterday."

"You chump! What did he borrow?"

"Trouble. He's in the hospital now."

The Thing That Counts.

"I perceive," said the Highbrow, after witnessing his first ball game, "that success in this sport can be attained only by perfect co-operation among the players, each subordinating his own individuality to that of the organization which he is a part."

"You may be right at that," replied the Lowbrow, "but the main thing is team work."

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Yesterday afternoon me and Puds Simkins went to the Little Grand, being a pritty good of a movie there called Berried Aliye in 7 Reels, and part of it showed a heavy looking nurse bandaging a soldier around the head, the nurse saying, "Does it hurt?" and the soldier saying, "No, it's a mean scratch. And while we was wawking home I had a idea, saying, 'Hay Puds, will you do me a favor, will you lome me your bottle of red ink, I'll give it back after supper.'"

Wich Puds went in his house and got it, and I took it home and after supper I smeered some on one end of my thumb and went around to Mary Watkins house and Mary Watkins was standing by herself on her front steps looking even bewilder looking than usual, me showing her my thumb and saying, "Owtch, holey smooks, maybe you think this dont hurt, its only a mean scratch, tho."

O, my goodness, O mercy, isent that perfectly dreadfil, wy in the world didnt you have it tied up? sed Mary Watkins. Nobody offered to tie it up for me, its a mean scratch, I sed, and she sed, O you poor boy, I'll tie it up for you, have you got a handkerchief?

No, I sed. Only I had, but it wasent good enuff looking to take out, and Mary Watkins sed, Then I'll tie it up with mine. O deer I cant hardly bare to look at it, does it hurt wen I tie it? and I sed, You bet it does, its a mean scratch. Wich jest wen she got it tied who came up but Puds Simkins, on account of him thinking Mary Watkins is all rite too, and she said, O Puds, you awt to of seen Benny's thumb, its all cut and red and I tied it up with my handkerchief.

All red? sed Puds, hay, wares my red ink, levee me see your thumb, and I sed, Like fun, do you think I want to expose it to the air agen? And I quick started to wawk away, saying, I'll go and get your ink, I forgot all about it, I didnt use it after all.

I dare you to levee me see your thumb, I dubble dare you, sed Puds. Wich I kepp on going as if I thawt I didnt hear him, and he properly told Mary Watkins all about wat he thawt I did with the red ink, ony he cant prove it so wat do I care?

KILLS WIFE THEN SUICIDES.

Lawrence, Mass., May 18.—Stefen Janicka, 24, employed in a local bakery, shot and killed his wife, Mary, aged 26, at their home, 24 Walnut street this noon. He then ended his own life with the same revolver. According to the neighbors the couple quarreled a week ago over the presence of a male boarder to whom the husband objected. They say this man still lived in the house, but he was at work in a mill this morning. Two small children of the couple were in the house at the time of the shooting.

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